ARTICLES

TO BE

ENQUIRED OF

Within the

Commissarishp

OF

VVESTMINSTER.

BY THE

Church-wardens and Sworne-men
in every Parish.

AND

Presentments to be made thereof to the
Commissaries Court.

Given *Anno Domini* 166

Dr Exon. Civilian

LONDON,

Printed for *Timothy Garthwait* at the Kings Head
in S. *Pauls* Church-yard, 1662.

BIBLIOTHECA PUBLICA

The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Parish.

YOu shall Swear to enquire with your best diligence, and make true answer to the Articles in this Book; and to Present every Person that now is, or of late was, inhabiting within your Parish, that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty, therein mentioned. And this you shall do uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, Hope of Reward, or fear of Displeasure. *So help you God.*

ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION and ENQUIRY
within the Commissariship of
WESTMINSTER.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. IS your Parish Church or Chappel in good and sufficient repair, both for the Roofe, Windows, Floor, and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple been demolished or pulled down? what part, and how long since? or any of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezelled or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone with a cover? and doth the same stand at or near the neather end of your Church, in such manner as anciently and usually Fonts have stood for the baptizing of children?

Is there a decent Communion-table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another Covering of white linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lords Supper? and have you a fair Chalice or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons?

4. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion, a large Bible of the last translation, and a book of Common-prayer lately published, Anno 1662. the book of Homilies set forth by Authority, and a printed table of the degrees wherein marriages are prohibited, and a book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and a decent Surplice and Hood? And are the Ten Commandments set upon the East end of your Church or Chappel?

5. Have you a Register-book in parchment of Christenings, Burials and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according to the ancient use?

6. Have you a Book of Paper, to record the names and licenses of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel; and do such Strangers subscribe their names? As also a third book for the Churchwardens accounts? as also a Chest with locks and keyes, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

Tit. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any door into it? and how long since?

2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Outhouses in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled down without license? have there been any encroachments made upon the same, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Predecessor? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

Tit.

Tit. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. Is your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally ordained, according to the Lawes of the Church of England?

2. Hath he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two months after his Induction, publickly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

3. Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

4. Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Lawes of the Church? Is he allowed by the Ordinary?

5. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the book of Common-prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith?

6. Doth your Minister at the reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood?

7. Doth he observe the Holy-dayes and Fasting-dayes, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as is appointed by the Rubrick?

8. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? If so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? or if he be not licensed, or be hindred, doth he procure one to supply his Office, by preaching or reading one of the Homilies?

9. Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop?

10. Doth he neglect or delay to visit the Sick, or to baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother of their own Children?

11. Hath your Minister married any persons without publishing the Banes on three Sundayes or Holy-dayes, or hath he married any in private

private houses, or not between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the morning, unless he had a license or dispensation so to do?

12. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint anie publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings or Exercises not appointed by Authority? Or doth he, or anie other, either Minister or Lay person hold anie Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrarie to the Lawes and Canons in that case provided?

13. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober life and conversation? or is his carriage in anie kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister?

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. Is there any in your Parish that make profession of anie other Religion, than what is established in the Church of England? And that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Service of the Church? If there be anie what are their names?

2. Is there anie person in your Parish, that lyeth under a Common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there anie common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or anie that are noted to be Haylers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction and discord amongst their neighbours?

3. Do anie of your Parish upon Sundaies or Holy-daies follow their bodily and ordinary labour, or permit their servants so to do? are anie Shops kept open, or wares sold? or do anie Victuallers, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer anie persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

4. Doth every person in your Parish duely resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundaies and Holy-daies, and there decently and orderly, as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their heads, kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

5. Is there anie in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be baptized in other Parishes? or are they baptized after

after other form than is appointed? or are they kept unbaptized longer than is allowed? or is there anie Infants or more aged persons as yet unbaptized?

6. Is there anie person in your Parish of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which Easter is alwaies to be one? Doth anie refuse to receive it knæling, or resort to other Parishes? or do anie Strangers come to your Parish Church to receive it?

7. Are there anie in your Parish that be denounced and declared excommunicate for anie crime committed? How long have they bèn so excommunicated? and do anie of your Parish kep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

8. Are there anie living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Lawes of God? or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

9. Are there any married women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

10. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for Easter offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

11. Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinarie? did anie dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave anie Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they bèn bestowed?

12. Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have anie new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinarie?

Tit. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

1. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clark, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duely attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duely paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice, toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

Tit. VI.

Concerning School-Masters, Schools, Phisicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. DOth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Ordinarie? doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holy-dayes orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

2. Doth any in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery? or any woman taken upon her to exercise the office of Midwife, without Licence from the Ordinarie.

Tit. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

1. ARe the Churchwardens of your Parish yearly and duely chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

2. Have

2. Have the former and last Churchwardens given up their accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Churchwardens the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

YOu also are to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of all and every the Offendors in any of the matters mentioned in the precedent Articles, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

FINIS.